

## Dimensional Location of the Thai Historical Novel in Rattanakosin Period: a Study of the Writings of "Vinita Diteeyont (Wor. Vinijchaikul)"

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### Abstract

In the present study, we have demonstrated that the study on dimensional location of the Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period as written by "Wor. Vinijchaikul" could confirm the historical novel looking more pronounced. The present study was a qualitative research using books, articles, and related publications, and we have focused on documentation of the scene as important and presented a descriptive analysis of this study. In the sense of novelist, the author created the characters from fantasy into way of life in historical places of the era that was desired. This is caused by the relationship of the author on the history either directly or through hearsay. With artistic abilities; furthermore, the author has used the location as the narrative story in addition to the setting of the film. For instance, to take place as part of the storyline in the set, personality of the characters, creating a realistic story, and show the author's perspective. The effectiveness has been occurred from the terms of realism that was consistent with the history and with authenticity of the characters. Moreover, this helped to the readers to understand the event in history, and to reflect the experience and

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dedication. Thus, the readers can recognize the importance of the location that determined the human and vice versa.

**Keywords:** Dimensional Location, Thai History, Rattanakosin Period, Wor. Vinijchaikul

## Introduction

A translated novel "revenge of Mae-wan" (Praya Surindra-Raja) was translated from the novel of Vendetta of Mary Corally, which was published in 100 years, the novel is a kind of literary fiction which extremely created the entertaining to the reader Lukwittaya book since 1902 and was the first novel in the Thai literature. Up to now, more than, and the art in this field has been used into several branches including movie, television, radio, theater, etc. These reflected the culture requirement in the form of literary traditions of social changes. As a result, the author needed to innovate and create the novel that has different stories such as historical novel, literary novel, scientific novel, political novel, social novel, family-life novel and teenage-life novel, and so are more attractive.

Allen (1948) stated that "historical novel is a kind of novel that occurs in the literature and may be the efforts of the author needs to create a different story". It may be because the author has impressed or inspired by the history of the special treatment and brought the clues to blend with imagination. From a Sri Lanka historical novel about "Sigiriya", Suwan (1977) said in the preface page that is the inspiration of the writing of this novel was a soulful impressive history and evidence of a monolithic stone remained visible to resist the wind during millennial years. Also, joined to visit the temple and met with the expert. Therefore, this "Sigiriya" novel demonstrated the inspiration of the poet who found the historical places. Not only historical novel as impression of the event, place or person, but also due to the intention of the author to present the concept of history. In addition, the purposes and

methods of literary of historical novel were different in each story. The observation of historical data from the document and from the field data has been used to make of the novel. A presented novel depended on the intent of the individual author how whether need to present anything. The historical novel was overlaped between the truth and falsehood (fictitious) according to historical evidence as a falsehood (Thomas, 1963, pp. 19-23).

Sivasariyanon (1994) proposed that the concept of science helped novelist keen to build the story and to be seen as more authentic. For the theory of environmental influences, a poet paid attention to outside things, i.e., house, furniture, appliances, costumes, food, roads, topography, etc. Interestingly, these environments have become an important component part of the novel that made the story and the characters having more life. This was a start of the novel that trying to explain the location to achieve realism in novels. Na Nakhon (1992, p. 44) stated that "In fact, various locations related to the condition of the habitation, but the sense of human can be found from other conditions such as old ruins church, Buddha with neck broken. Those places brought a sense of humanity to be different, so the poet used to draw up the scene to prepare the emotions of readers to the event to appear in that scene. Singhara (1958) studied about the supernatural fantasy in novel of Jintawee Wiwattana involving with the way of writing, creating a plot character, creating a scene and creating a unique ambience. The author used two scenes: the nature or realistic scene and the supernatural scenes. The nature or realistic scene included scenes created by the reality. The author used a fictional place as one of the country such as forests, mountains, cliffs, streams, fields, etc., describing the awesome thrill and horror of the supernatural. In addition, the supernatural scene often took place with the mysterious darkness as well as taste, smell, sound, touch to the horror. Kookirt (1997) analyzed the novel of Krisana Asoksin and mentioned three developments

including the ideas about family and social concepts, the character with the characteristics and dominant role, and the writing strategies with the title and the story. The author mentioned that the scene was used in the opening of the novel.

For writing the novel, the author needs to search more the historical data because one of the characters mentioned in history depends on the details of the character, semblance living, language, culture as well as the environment. In this way, the author had to take longer time to creative historical novels and depended on the complexity of the subject (Komroff, 1950), for example, "Wor. Vinijchaikul" who is a woman novelist and has meticulously searched the ancient documents including the language used in that era. The study of the location in novel was a part of the text as helping to creative the novel as good for reading and interpretation of the novel whether general or historical novels.

"Wor. Vinijchaikul" is a woman novelist of Rattanakosin period. She is interested in the events or individuals person who are in history. She presented three stories of Thai historical novels in Rattanakosin period including Rattanakosin, Song Fang Klong and Mah Lai Sahm Chai. These novels involved with the events and people in Thai history of Rattanakosin period until the reign of King Rama 9. Interestingly, the writing of historical novel according to the location in history has not been studied. In the present study, therefore, we have studied the relationship between the location and the author, the main relationship between location and structures and effectiveness of dimensional location of the Thai historical novel. It is important and useful for expanding the study of Thai history.

## Objectives

In the present study, we have studied the novels from the writing literatures as described by Wor. Vinijchaikul. There are three specific objectives as follows:

1. To study the relationship between the location and the author of Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period.
2. To study the main relationship between location and structures of Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period.
3. To study the effectiveness of using dimensional location of Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period.

## Research Methodology

The dimensional location of the Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period was studied from the writings of "Wor. Vinijchaikul". There are three novels as three-year sequence of the first printed books including the novel "Rattanakosin" (first publication since 2010), the novel "Song Fang Klong" (first publication since 2011) and the novel "Mah Lai Sahn Chai" (first publication since 2012).

This research was a qualitative study using books, articles, and related research. We have focused on documentation of the scene as important and presented a descriptive analysis of this study.

## Results

Unique and distinctive feature of historical novel was to create characters from fantasy to life in the historical truth. As a result, those places that determine the role and behavior of the characters to harmoniously fit with the context of the novel. All three issues, 1) Rattanakosin 2) Song Fang Klong

and 3) Mah Lai Sahn Chai, have been used for analyzed of dimensional location of the Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period because they outstandingly represented the culture and the events in Thai history.

1. The relationship between the location and the author.

- Rattanakosin novel was taken place when Ayutthaya defeated by Burmese. The riots and rebellion was occurred. Phraya Taksin had surrendered and he ordained to be a monk. Lord of the King summoned his rule. The first monarch of the Chakri dynasty has been established to be Rattanakosin Kingdom on the eastern side of the Chaophraya River that opposed Bangkok.

This novel expressed the Thai politics in history including the conflict of the Thai nobility.

The conflict between the Chao Phraya Maha Sena and the Chao Phraya Abai Buthorn as follow:

"Who would have thought that the highest position in the land lords, which both of Chao Phraya Maha Sena and the Chao Phraya Abai Bhuthorn. There will be a big brawl broke the scene that started with only a little about themselves".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 407)

- Song Fang Klong novel was a story of the political history since 1925, which was the final year of the reign of King Rama VI until the year 1946. One year after the Greater East Asia War and the final year of the reign of King Ananda Mahidol, a period of political changed rather than any generation and the economic was affected from both internal and external factors.

Disruption of the People

"You want to grow old this year especially in changing of the rule for past a year and made yourself be hurt too much. His boss of

grandfather must come to stay abroad for political reasons. In addition, the older friends have fluctuated in the position of wor, and a rift was occurred in the promoter of change. For example, in June 20, 1933, this year just past was not long, and Phraya Prahon Prayuha Saena acted as a chief of revolutionaries to overthrow the democratic government. He recognized many events that happened before and after this event with anguish".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p 192)

- Mah Lai Sahn Chai novel brought the political history since 1932, which was the rule change to King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

#### Change of rule in 1932

"Phraya Yotha Bodee looked back at her. He was pensive and sad eyes as tears fell down again on the other eye as well. I need to go outside Siam with the King, and will come up to meet you again. When he can find a way, he will to get her to stay with their children too".

(Wor. Vinichaikul, 2013, pp. 347-348)

2. To study the relationship between location and main structures of Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period.

#### 2.1 Dimesional location about physical aspect

*Rattanakosin novel:* The author would like to let the reader knew the lives of Thai people in the early Rattanakosin period. By focusing on the scene as follows:

#### Scene of the Grand Palace

Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall was here... Fuk (actor) can still remember about a statue remains the king of this land came the governor. It would be up there as he referred to the court of Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p 285)

### Chiefs' house

"The congregation of aristocracy was a case decided by the parlor, as well as other noble houses. But this massive tower ride home until the birds hatch to the temple in large measure that fro each wooden pole vaulting. The people can not wrapped around each plate, also left over milestones outlet and are carved corbel airy elegance. There was even less to dust. Let them know that labour still has ample family home ... ".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 295)

"The orchestra heard from somewhere..... presumably from the inside of the house and loudly and then fade away".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 296)

Song Fang Klong novel: The author would like to provide the reader to focus on the subject. Rama house that situated on the banks of the canal since 1925 was the original story of the reign of King Rama VI. All windows are stained with glass shutters. People who know what it said, "Rama house ...now it was dismantled to give for the temple".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, pp. 16-18)

In addition, Wor. Vinijchaikul has brought the fact of the flooding in Klongsan that affected houses located on the opposite sides of the canal.

Merging voice of Mr. Pasan loudly shout out to the other side of the canal because his carpet and chairs were soaked by the flooding. "Do not take care of the house", Mr. Pasan loudly curses the attendants. It will be released to anyone "To wake up a bit, it does not let you think you shamelessly flooded home". The houses of Mr. Feung and Mr. Kangeun were built with modern style, the flood



did not reach into the houses. Mr. Khan emerged the window listening to the insults of someone, then laughed with his wife ...".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p. 710)

*Mah Lai Sahm Chai novel:* The author's emphasized on the scene at the beginning of life of Laororn (actress). Phraya Palathorn's house was very large Italian plaster dark red background. He lived with his wife. It also had a separate building backyard with a small house for another wives. First son was married and got one acre of land to build a house for one of the latter are proportional to the separation.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2013, p. 27)

## 2.2 Dimensional location about the principal role

The role of the place is that it acted in the narrative. There were 4 types of functions in the storyline: 1) determination of the storyline, 2) determinations of the character, personality and behavior, 3) serving to realism and 4) serving to visual perspective as described below:

### 2.2.1 Determination of the storyline

*Rattanakosin novel:* novelist needed to take place anylocation as an important part of the storyline. Authors gave priority to such places as the historical events in the life with the Grand Palace. The highlight of the place is always mentioned as earlier described an example below:

Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall was here..... Fuk (actor) can still remember about a statue remains the king of this land came the governor. It would be up there as he referred to the court of Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 5)

*Song Fang Klong novel:* This was expressed the history since 1925-1946. Actor, namely Tubtim, was an orphaned girl and stayed with grandfather in Rama house.

For example, next until almost the end of the canal..., there was one house and saw towering far away. The house was built in the reign itself with modern style but non-wooden boards cover a five-room house. It was a wooden stilts and consisted of a large porch in the middle and spreaded to both sides of a room with high ceiling vents as several airy throughout every room. Manila has been on the roof shape as well. The back patio was extensive connections with a kitchen and a host of other housing units.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p. 20)

*Mah Lai Sahn Chai novel:* A historic event took place during the reign of King Rama V with life story of Laorom. The place is called "Palace of the Royal Princess".

For example, the environment in the house looked elegant in a sense. When Laorom though herself as part of the palace, she was careful not to do anything wrong. She concentrated as a good girl. Example of the most beautiful lady in her eyes is her Majesty Princess.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2013, p 23)

## 2.2.2 Determinations of the character, personality and behavior

Location of the novel was an important part in determining the character, personality and behavior.

*Rattanakosin novel:* A novel showed the use of life in the reign of King Rama I to III. It is interesting that the era of prosperity with Chinese trader. Thai people did not deprive aliens who were in Thailand, so "Fuk" (Chinese character) had the opportunity to get commercial relatives without being bullied by the

people. Fuk was a person with intelligence, courage, kindness, devotion to duty and monogamous behaviors. He has been characterized by significant differences with other men in Thailand, so he was the idealism for other people.

Fuk was a clever man. He learned and practiced the customary manner as Thai and China traditions. He had knowledge about the use of various weapons, laws, literature, and customs.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 62)

*Song Fang Klong novel:* Location was the most active role in the personality and behavior of the characters. Rama house was situated on both sides of canals. Tubtim's grandfather, who raised her since childhood. Tubtim was an orphan. Father gave her to the grandparents raised since birth. She liked to read books, loved education and was supported for education.

For example, "It looks like Tubtim went to school and she was not much about the house work. Always, she read the books every day until ten years old. Nang Som (actress) wanted to pinch Tubtim".

Meanwhile, Tubtim proved herself to express that women were able to self-sufficiency from well education for a job to survive. She would like to attend the Faculty of Arts and intend to be a teacher.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, pp. 267-268)

*Mah Lai Sahn Chai novel:* Place play an important role in determining the personality and behavior of the protagonists of Laororn. The decision is a major shift from the back yard of Saran's house. Quite dark field, only the lights dim on the waterfront pavilion was the only glimmer. Sweet floral scent wafting through the evening

from the river, Laororn stopped at the waterfront pavilion with Saran making her to retrospect loving with "Yod" as a former husband. However, today she decided to go out due to Yods' concubine. And she was sure that she was a good daughter-in-law for everyone. When reviewing and ensured that it did not come from her side. Laororn gradually more comfortable and ask the following question: What way is she struggling to escape from the trouble?.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2013, pp. 152-153)

### 2.2.3 Serving to realism

In the novel, locations which were used by the author always expressed about nature of social conditions and events that occurred during that period. The aim is to achieve realism.

*Rattanakosin novel:* Showing the life from the reign of King Rama I to III, it was proud to be an interesting and attractive, especially the Grand Palace. Wor. Vinijchaikul set for "Fuk" to have a chance to meet the King.

"Fuk never forget the first opportunity to enter the place as a heart of the land even the time passed by several years...".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 289)

*Song Fang Klong novel:* Performing to the social conditions and events that occurred during that period. Wor. Vinijchaikul emphasized on the location of Rama house.

Next until almost the end of the canal..., there was one house and saw towering far away. The house was built in the reign itself with modern style but non-wooden boards cover a five-room house. It was a wooden stilts and consisted of a large porch in the middle and spreaded to both sides of a room with high ceiling vents as several airy throughout every room. Manila has been on the roof

shape as well. The back patio was extensive connections with a kitchen and a host of other housing units and extended to the fruit gardens.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p. 20)

Come back to Thailand

His come back of King Ananda Mahidol and King Bhumibol Adulyadej link the characters have a chance to get going.

Tubtim waited until fatigue. When it picks up, dizzy from inhaling smelling salts, as well as an old woman. However, the movement happening on the road. People's voice yell with joy as it is.

The car slowly cruised and people started to stagger the crowd. Khun Lan extended her arm out to protect Tubtim. But the concussion from the force around the girl would know anyway. She pointedly stared with widened eyes to absorb the sight of the lease at the heart full of joy, and transmitted to the child in the womb.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p. 874)

*Mah Lai Sahn Chai novel:* To create realistic situation and specially focus to Laororn who never received the news of her husband for a long time. Therefore, she had sorrow in her heart.

The current political news pretended to be weakening when a new government to control the country duing His Majesty the King changed to live in Hua Hin. People released the excitement. However, some house did not the same life. Laororn precisely remembered last evening that is the wind blowed in the morning, in November of 1932, until the evening. She could not take the children into the yard because she was still thinking of her husband.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2013, p. 358)

#### 2.2.4 Providing visual perspective of the author

*Rattanakosin novel:* The goal of this novel is to propose the idea to demonstrate the life of Thailand in the past almost two hundred years ago. Modern science and technology of the west has been involved to Thailand. Unfortunately, the worth of pride in many aspects such as politics, economic, sociality and literary were lost.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, preface)

*Song Fang Klong novel:* The novel depicted the life of Thai people as the country suffered a major social changes such as change of rule in 1932, World War II and Greater East Asia War. The author created a scene with houses on both sides of the canal. A family of "Rama" to be the characters as shown in the essence of life and a way of life in such families among event fluctuations of major sociality throughout the 21 years ago. The Klong San (canal) is a symbol of the life and times to survive with the wisdom and carefully live in peace.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, preface)

*Mah Lai Sahn Chai novel:* The novel reflected the visual perspective of the author. The living of women continued for up to 5 generations of dynasty. For married to 3 times, it was a behavior that is not acceptable in Thai society. The main idea of this novel suggested that person did not caution in life need to be sanctioned and depressed. In contrast to those who hold themselves in the framework of morality and honesty will find happiness and overcome the obstacles in the end. It was a reverse of story that is the opening scene in the current character. Laororn (grandchildren) was in grandmother's bedroom. Over the next several years, grandpa organized the room with the old version as seem to hope grandmother

would sometimes come to visit again and sleep on the bed containing pink pearl as well.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2013, preface)

Practices and lifestyles within the framework of morality and honesty will find happiness and a role model for the children behaves and appreciates. It is a visual perspect of a novelist who suggests the people need to live with a morality.

### 3. The effectiveness of using the dimensional location

3.1 The effectiveness of using the dimensional location has been evaluated from three novels including Rattanakosin, Song Fang Klong and Mah Lai Sahn Chai.

The author's imagination and historical data were created as a work of fiction that gave the pleasure to the readers. The effectiveness is considered as follows:

3.1.1 Creation of realistic characters reflected the historical events.

Location in the Rattanakosin period was mentioned as limitation such as the Grand Palace representing the beauty of Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall and Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall.

"Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall...Fuk still remebered... was enshrined the remains of his Majesty. Phraratchapinijai told the land where the King ascended the governor. It was over there, the state room called Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 285)

In addition, Song Fang Klong mentioned about the architecture during the reign of King Rama VI. Houses were built along the canal of the Klong San, which were integrated with western culture,

especially Rama house. As well, Mah Lai Sahn Chai discussed about the Italian architecture of Phraya Palathorn's house containing 1 Rai (3.95 Acres) as this architecture made the reader realized the grandeur of this architecture. These were the worth effectiveness.

"Next until almost the end of the canal, there was one house stands visible from afar. This house was built in the days of modern style. Not only wooden boards covered a wealthy old house, but also included a large central bay, airy high ceiling vents in every room, and the roof like Manila shaped". People who know what it said "Chiefs' house ... it came from France".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p. 20)

### 3.1.2 Reflecting inside of the novelist

"Wor. Vinijchaikul" is a poet who exquisitely expressed the Thai-lifestyle and focused on the monarchy whether there is a change of government into a democratic system; however, people are still loyal to the king of Thailand. The place was not only to determine the event, but also was a key of the novel that gave a more realistic story, and motivated the reader to believe that the characters real lived in that place. Also, addition of the appearance, expression of the behavior as well as the emotions of the characters was also used. It also play an important role in determining the storyline. The story continues to be concise, clear and reflecting the ability of the author to choose a place in the novel and to reflect on the relationship between the novelist and the reader.

### 3.1.3 Motivation of the interest about the Rattanakosin history

The time period in the novels of Rattanakosin, Song Fang Klong and Mah Lai Sahn Chai started from the early Rattanakosin to the beginning of the reign of king Rama IX, which exhibited many events. Wor. Vinijchaikul did not delve in deep-detail of the history, only mentioned



some events that enough time to go with the character of the era. Some readers may be interested in the following details and to get a clear distinctness.

#### Phralakorn drama

Phralakorn was a case of the political drama because a gang of people who had an impact on political power at that time. The king knew this story and made a case that was true or not, even if the event took place at Nong Khai. But it may affected the earth ... "Obtain the Ribrachbatr and the death penalty"... Because of this action was to haunt people for the benefit either. It is a felony.

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2010, p. 719)

#### Reform in Thai language

Conventional Thai language shall be canceled. The principal reasons for the change were the meeting to the teachers.

"We had our own language. We need to improve our language more carefully. Learn how easy it was now. Thai language was hard to study because we had a lot of orthography, and we had to borrow some of the language to use. This is not right with the Thai sovereignty and culture ...".

(Wor. Vinijchaikul, 2011, p. 734).

All of the above, the dynamics of the novel takes place to use the place or location as an ability of the author to make the reader believe that is a realism. It could happen to any one, and will result in a greater understanding of other humans. It may also be used as an assessment tool of novelist as in terms of artistic visions, etc. and to use the writings that make it suitable for the occasion.

## Discussion

Our results exhibited dimensional location of the Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period using the writings of "Wor. Vinijchaikul". It was found that novelist has authored a neat trick to create and link the elements of literature especially the location or place in the novel. In addition, it clearly explained the specific characteristic of historical fiction. Also, it showed the techniques used to create the realism of the character in the aspect of background, personality, mindset, roles and behavior. The dimensional location of the historical novel of "Wor. Vinijchaikul" can influence the emotional trauma of the readers to the characters, and to raise awareness with the readers have known about the importance of historical places as the place has changed through the history of the country. It was a place where non-verbal language was used for way of life.

What are the interesting knowledge in dimensional location of the Thai historical novel in Rattanakosin period using three novels of "Wor. Vinijchaikul"? It was found that location or place served as the storyline. It is an example of the propagation of the human mind in a way that reflected the relationship between humans and the environment in both natural and man-made things up. Such a relationship could be either binding or rejection based on the character that needed anything. In fact, humans have used the location and environment to determine the thought and behavior of them with either intention or unintention. Humans have their impressive venue, and sometimes can be an inspiration. Using location, the plot served as a way to make a realistic character and story.

Location in the novel served as an identifier about personality and behavior of the characters and the realism. Another way is to lead the reader to understand the gravity of the possibility of human situations. Because all different places have gravitated to the human senses as much as this is

probably the way to more seriously study about nonverbal language. All things arounded human beings were meaningful description of the identity of the human. As a result, the reader perfectly knew the character. If this character is likely to bring the reader along with emotional, it is considered to be successful novelist. In addition, using location in the literary novels in the same time as this was a reminder to the reader with aware of their surroundings and attention.

Perspective of "Wor. Vinijchaikul" that appeared in three historical novels as the reader was led to study about the history of Thailand. The history is seemed to be mirrors that reflecting many stories including the rules' change, World War II, culture, society and way of life in the moral. Frameworks of the three novels expressed love, gratefulness and replace your land. The readers can participate in the fantasy and imagination that leading to the satisfaction of the reading. Hence, the effectiveness of using the dimensional location of the historical novel can be considered as a success of novelist, namely "Wor. Vinijchaikul".

## Suggestion

In the further prospect, here should be done with other dimensions of "Wor. Vinijchaikul", e.g., psychology, economics, geography that making the novels with more different knowledge. Moreover, the evaluation of the novel's value as social reflection such as culture, lifestyle and wisdom will be done in the future.

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